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**FEB 11 2008**

**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

**To:** Commissioner for Patents  
Examiner, Kristy A. Haupt

**Firm:** U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Art Unit 2876

**Facsimile:** (571) 273-8300

**From:** William S. Frommer

**Date:** February 11, 2008

**Re:** FLH Ref No.: 450100-05112  
Serial No: 10/525,904

**Number of Pages:** 3  
(including cover page)

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PATENT  
450100-05112IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Norio SUGAWARA et al. Notice of Allowance  
Serial No.: 10/525,904 Dated: 11/16/2007  
Filed: February 25, 2005  
For: EXTERNAL STORAGE DEVICE  
Examiner: Kristy A. Haupt  
Art Unit: 2876  
Confirmation No.: 9663

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February 11, 2008

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which  
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed November 16, 2007. To the extent the Examiner's

-1-

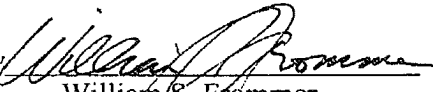
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PATENT  
450100-05112

Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By   
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